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Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Improving Education in The West

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Annual Report 1979

WICHE



This is WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) provides a regional forum to address issues in higher education and human services in the thirteen western states. Created in 1953 by Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, WICHE operates on the basic principle that interstate and inter-institutional cooperation is an avenue to improving higher education and containing unnecessary costs.

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Chairman's Message

Dear Governors, Legislators, and Friends:

Our western states compose a region with common interests but enormous diversity. The contrasts are sharp—in geography, of course, but also in political, social, and economic structure.

Within the region is found both the largest and smallest states in population. Urbanized areas border vast stretches of uninhabited land. Our many minority groups represent differing cultural heritages and experiences. Boom-and-bust economies are part of the western heritage, but the cycle renews itself in new ways and in different locations, most recently in the rush to develop energy resources.

Amid this diversity, there are strong ties that join the western states into a vital, growing region. The record of success in applying regional approaches in such areas as energy and water resources, federal aid, and education and human resources has led to a growing recognition in the West and elsewhere that many goals are best achieved through interstate collaboration.

In the broad fields of higher education and human services, it is the task of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) to respond in those areas where regional approaches can be applied fruitfully to issues affecting the West. This calls for a delicate balancing of disparate interests in the individual states to fulfill the mutual interests of all thirteen states.

The task is not easily achieved, and the effort must be constant. It is heartening to report, however, that numerous achievements were recorded during 1979 by WICHE in meeting its commitment of service to the region.

Highlights of 1979

A major thrust of WICHE activities during 1979 was the provision of expanded information resource sharing for the benefit of educators and government decision makers in the West. That thrust included creation of a clearinghouse for information on higher education and effort devoted to improving communications with WICHE constituents. WICHE Commissioners and staff met frequently with various constituents to discuss program activities, priority needs, and WICHE's role in responding to those needs. In addition to these personal contacts, WICHE publications and a public information program were redesigned to enhance communications.

WICHE activities are carried out through several program areas. Their accomplishments are highlighted below; more complete program summaries follow in this Annual Report. In 1979, WICHE:

- Facilitated the professional education of more than 1,300 students from western states when programs they sought were not available in their home state.
- Established an Information Clearinghouse to respond to the needs of state officials and educators for information and analysis of higher education issues.
- Field tested methods by which to better measure the cost-effectiveness of mental health services at the state and local levels in order to improve the accountability of the entire mental health system.

Regional problem solving?
The times are right

- Provided the first inventory of doctoral programs in western universities to assist education planners in determining what programs are available and thus avoid wasteful duplication.
- Established or redirected programs that will assist the states in (1) meeting the health needs in the rural West, particularly in energy-impacted areas; (2) responding to the needs of minorities in higher education; and (3) improving higher education's contributions to the public policy areas of economic development and criminal justice.
- Examined the present distribution of vision care manpower in the region, analyzed future requirements, and began the state-by-state process needed to meet those requirements.
- Strengthened the ability of educators and nursing service officials to determine the nursing personnel requirements that will need to be met by postsecondary education in coming years.
- Developed almost 100 internships for western college students with sponsoring agencies in the region.


A Look at the 1980s

Adjustment to change is the primary focus as the new decade commences. In higher education, some of our states will be adjusting to declining student population, others accommodating substantial growth.

Whatever the specific responses to change might be, a prime factor in dealing with the issues must be the use of fiscal restraint. Taxpayers are unequivocal in their message to policy makers of the 1980s: judicious use of available resources is imperative.

In such an environment, there is ample reason for examining the many opportunities for regional responses through WICHE, an organization ideally suited to facilitating the maximum use of resources through cooperative means.

WICHE Commissioners and staff look forward to your continued association as we plan and work together in the 1980s.



Patricia Saiki
Hawaii State Senator
WICHE Chairman

Student Exchange Program

The Student Exchange Program is at the heart of WICHE activities. The primary emphasis of this program—indeed, the basic rationale for the interstate compact itself—is on providing access to professional education programs when those programs are not available to qualified students in a particular state. By working cooperatively to fulfill this goal, the states also reduce the need to duplicate costly programs that are accessible elsewhere for their residents.

WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program has met the needs of approximately 3,500 professional school graduates since its inception in 1953. At the same time it has saved the states millions of dollars in costs while assisting them in fulfilling access and manpower needs in selected professional fields. The use of such exchanges is still attractive in the 1980s as public spending for higher education becomes more stringent and as enrollment levels ebb and flow across the various states.

In academic 1979-80, a record 1,352 professional students are benefiting under the WICHE program. Their home states are providing almost ten million dollars in cost-of-education support fees to the receiving schools while the individual students pay resident tuition at public institutions or no more than one-third the normal tuition at private schools.

Through WICHE, 57 institutions in the West offer professional exchange programs in the fields of architecture, dental hygiene, dentistry, forestry, graduate library studies, graduate nursing education, law, medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, podiatry, public health, and veterinary medicine.

In 1979, WICHE negotiated on behalf of one of the member states with out-of-region schools of osteopathic medicine, a non-exchange field, for student placements in that field and began a feasibility study on adding maritime education to the exchange program.

Other WICHE-sponsored student exchange mechanisms include twelve community colleges in three states, seven schools of mineral engineering in as many states, graduate education programs in six states, and one state that provides financial support to resident students in fields not available in their home state, but not part of the professional education support fields.

In addition to administration of the above exchanges, WICHE staff also achieved improved admission procedures in the fields of dentistry and veterinary medicine for students certified by their home states to be involved in the WICHE program. The WICHE Commission adopted a new policy for equitable handling of cases where WICHE students received federal scholarships requiring a service obligation.

Graduate Education Project

Educational leaders recognize that graduate programs are affected by the pressures of rising costs, diminishing financial resources, enrollment fluctuations, and increased demands for responsible and practical public service. Western institutions and states have been working on this problem through WICHE's Project on Expanding Regional Cooperation in Graduate and Professional Education.

Stimulating appreciation for coordination

WICHE's Graduate Education Project seeks to create an awareness of the need for regional coordination of graduate study through the sharing of information about graduate level programs across the region. Illustrating this is the 1979 publication of the first compilation of doctoral programs in western universities to assist education planners in determining what programs are currently available. The project also publishes a listing of new, adjusted, or terminated graduate programs in the West, and is engaged in an inventory of unique facilities, such as special equipment or laboratories that might be shared with researchers and graduate students from other institutions.

The project has produced a series of reports on trends in graduate education, enrollment, interstate student mobility, and employment demand for doctorates. In addition to providing information, the project is working to establish models of cooperative regional planning in higher education.

Planning efforts are concentrated in five demonstration states—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Efforts are underway to encourage interinstitutional cooperation in specific program areas, and to create arrangements for identification of programs of special importance in the sub-region that would enhance their visibility and accessibility through interstate arrangements.

Regional Optometric Education Project

In response to regional needs for improved vision care, WICHE developed during 1979 a plan to regionalize optometric education in the West. The primary objectives of the plan are (1) to provide educational opportunity to students in all states, (2) to maintain an

adequate supply of optometric manpower distributed appropriately within the region, and (3) to improve the delivery of primary vision services to the public.

In order to develop this plan, two reports were completed in 1979: one examines vision care manpower and the other existing regional approaches to health professional education.

Features of the proposed regional plan, which will be reviewed in 1980 by each of the thirteen states, include access and admissions procedures and a cooperative network of off-campus clinical training sites.

Information Clearinghouse

For more than twenty-five years, WICHE has provided an informal forum for information sharing in the thirteen western states. Because the range of issues related to higher education is expanding and the issues are becoming more complex, WICHE has created an Information Clearinghouse to provide assistance to policy makers in the West. WICHE's effort in this regard has drawn strong endorsement from state government and educational officials.

The Clearinghouse provides prompt, accurate responses to inquiries from these officials and others involved in higher education, identifies critical policy issues in higher education, and disseminates information and analyses appropriate to those concerns. When staff cannot adequately respond, they refer requests to a network of regional and national experts.

In its first six months of operation, the WICHE Clearinghouse responded to requests on a wide range of educational and governmental activities. Major reports dealt with projections of high school graduates in the states and the representation of minorities in higher education in the West. Staff has gathered information in many other areas, including lifelong learning, governmental services performed by higher education institutions, administrative and faculty salaries, tuition and fees, enrollment, and earned degrees. The Clearinghouse intends to be continually engaged in the identification and broad dissemination of important information in higher education.

Health Resources Program

Many of the serious problems in health care today require multidisciplinary attention and cooperation between governmental policy makers and the educators and researchers in higher education. WICHE launched a Health Resources Program in 1979 to address some of these issues.

Health Research—A new WICHE effort is aimed at increasing the flow of policy-relevant, usable information to key health leaders at state and local levels. While health services research provides useful information, the link between researchers and decision makers is often unsatisfactory. Under a contract from the National Center for Health Services Research, WICHE is beginning the process of forging improved linkages between health research and policy making by identifying issues, summarizing existing research relating

to those issues, and sponsoring a series of workshops to help decision makers use the research. Initial efforts are concentrated in two states as a pilot project.

Rural Health—Rural health problems are not new to the West, but the recent impact of energy development on sparsely populated areas has given the issue new urgency. WICHE is attempting to facilitate the sharing of information and solutions concerning rural health service by identifying existing programs in the region which focus on rural health needs and examining the major problems in rural care delivery.

Nursing Program

WICHE's Nursing Program, with a strong record of contributions to regional health care planning and service for more than two decades, concluded several projects during 1979 and began exploration of new avenues. One major activity to assist the states in planning for nursing came to its formal end with publication of the final report although staff consultation is continuing in this health planning area. Also published during the year were compilations of instruments used in nursing education research and in the measurement of nursing practices.

A new project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health will improve the care of clients through educational programs which will help nurses apply psychiatric/mental health nursing research in work settings. A series of workshops on this subject will begin in 1980 for over 150 nurses.

WICHE's Nursing Program and WICHE's Commission receive advice and assistance in nursing education matters from the Western Council on Higher Education for Nursing (WCHE), consisting of 168 collegiate schools of nursing and their representatives. In 1979, WCHE reviewed its goals and recommended regional attention be given to the issues of entry into professional nursing practice and the development of nursing science through research. To meet those priorities, specific projects are being developed to increase faculty skills in both teaching and clinical practice, improve administrative skills of directors of associate degree nursing programs, and increase the accessibility of quality educational mobility programs to registered nurses who seek a baccalaureate degree.

WICHE also assisted WCHE in conducting its twelfth annual conference on Communicating Nursing Research and its Annual Meeting at which major issues were discussed and recommendations made for future directions in nursing education in the West.

Another program activity is the collection of information on graduate students and faculty by ethnic background and on aspects of graduate preparation in nursing, e.g., specialization, and student support services.

Mental Health and Human Services Program

The thirteen western states have looked to WICHE to help build cooperative solutions to issues involved in improving mental health care in the region. Policy makers have asked WICHE to develop tools to measure the cost-effectiveness of mental health programs; educators have sought out WICHE to develop new mental health curricula; and mental health professionals have turned to WICHE to provide a support system for practitioners, particularly those in the West's vast rural areas.

WICHE's Mental Health and Human Services Program worked during 1979 to develop measurements of program accountability and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of mental health services in order to assist state policy makers to weigh the impact of mental health programs. The testing of measurement tools continues into 1980.

Also during 1979, WICHE convened state mental health authorities to consider findings and recommendations of the President's Commission on Mental Health, performance contracting between the federal government and state governments, and mental health services offered to Indians. Other conferences dealt with the prevention of emotional disorders, increasing the pool of mental health manpower, and examining ways to improve mental health services for minority groups.

The coming year will see expanded efforts to provide data and technical assistance in the mental health manpower area, to design models to serve chronically disturbed patients, and to further identify the needs of minorities relating to treatment and services. A conference is planned to consider state mental health manpower issues.

WICHE is redirecting its efforts in criminal justice toward strengthening the contributions of higher education to the practice of law enforcement, adjudication, and corrections. Key to this effort in 1979 was a WICHE-sponsored regional criminal justice education conference that outlined several issues that might best be dealt with through interstate cooperation on a regional basis. WICHE is exploring appropriate responses to those suggestions made by state and local policy makers, educators, and criminal justice officials.

Economic Development Program

The role of higher education in western economic development is a significant one, particularly in the areas of research, education of future economic planners, and the continuing education of those in the field. There is a need, however, to increase the use of the resources of higher education to meet economic development issues.

WICHE is moving to improve ties between higher education and practitioners by sponsoring a major regional conference on economic development issues in 1980. Between 100 and 150 individuals involved in economic development and higher education will be convened to identify regional needs, initiate regional resource

and information-sharing activities in the field, and work out linkages between higher education and development interests. The conference will provide a springboard for development of regional strategies by which educational resources can be brought to bear on vital economic issues in the West.

Minority Education Program

Research indicates that although ethnic minorities compose a significant percentage of the population of the West, they are under-represented in the student population, especially in graduate and professional programs. WICHE in 1979 began development of a program to (1) provide better information for minority students to improve their access and retention in higher education, especially in academic areas where they have not been traditionally represented; and (2) to assist minority faculty, administrators, and researchers in their professional development.

WICHE's program stemmed from recommendations of two task forces convened in 1978 to identify key issues and to recommend priorities relating to minorities in postsecondary education. Late in 1979, WICHE's Executive Committee endorsed several program initiatives aimed at addressing some of the identified issues. These efforts continue WICHE's work of the past decade in improving education and professional opportunities for minorities in the West.

Intern Program

WICHE's Intern Program, started in 1968, has provided more than 1,500 western students the opportunity to receive practical, paid experience in their fields of study. This broadens their education and improves their qualifications for the labor market. At the same time, it benefits sponsor agencies by providing them with talented, motivated manpower to conduct specific projects that might otherwise be deferred.

During 1979, sponsoring agencies—partially supported by federal grants and contracts—provided professional internship opportunities for almost 100 students in the West. One grant provided internships in economic development issues and another encouraged the study of multicultural education.

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education is supporting a project to devise a cost-effective model by which to evaluate internship programs, improve their design in the future, and to improve supervision of sponsoring agencies.

The Intern Program staff worked during 1979 to link future internships more closely with other WICHE programs. In this regard, internship proposals were developed relating to WICHE interests in rural health, mental health, and economic development.

Leadership and Policy Setting

The thirteen member states guide WICHE and maintain program oversight through their Commissioners, three appointed by the Governor of each state. These thirty-nine Commissioners are a cross-section of leaders from state government executive and legislative branches, presidents of universities, chief executives of state higher education systems and coordinating boards, other educators, and professional and private sector representatives.

With the founding compact as a base, the Commission has established WICHE's mission as helping the member states to cooperatively provide high-quality, cost-effective postsecondary education programs to meet the manpower needs of the states and the education needs of their citizens. Specific goals are to assist member states in:

- Access—increasing the availability of higher education to students;

- Manpower—assisting states to have the technically and professionally trained persons they require, especially in health and human service fields;
- Quality—helping states increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their higher education programs.

WICHE's Commission sets policy for the organization in line with these goals, spelling out the criteria and process by which priorities are determined for new and renewed WICHE projects. Projects are approved and reviewed in light of these goals and state needs. Varied means are used to determine those needs, including surveys, personal communications, and other methods. **A Four-Year Program and Financial Plan**, updated annually, provides a guide for program and budget development at WICHE.

WICHE Commissioners (as of January 1980) are:

Alaska



Commissioner Sue S. Greene, Juneau
Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska State Department of Administration

Commissioner Glenn Hackney, Fairbanks
State Senator

Commission Vice-Chairman Kerry D. Romesburg, Juneau
Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Arizona



Commissioner Brent Brown, Tempe
Associate Professor, Center for Public Affairs, Arizona State University

Commissioner Robert A. Huff, Phoenix
Executive Coordinator, Arizona Board of Regents

Commissioner Jones Osborn, Yuma
State Senator

California



Commissioner Patrick M. Callan, Sacramento
Executive Director, California Postsecondary Education Commission

Commissioner John E. Canaday, Burbank
Vice Chairman of the Board, Southern California Savings and Loan

Commissioner Richard G. Hovannisian, Los Angeles
Professor, Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles

Hawaii



Commissioner David L. Fairbanks, Honolulu
Attorney

Commissioner Sumie F. McCabe, Honolulu
Special Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Commission Chairman Patricia Saiki, Honolulu
State Senator

Montana

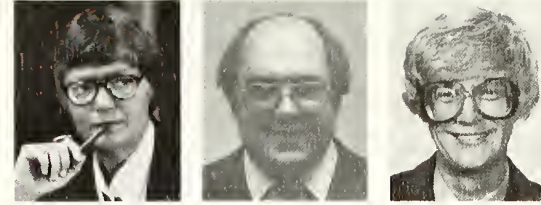


Commissioner William R. McGregor, Great Falls
Physician

Commissioner John A. Richardson, Helena
Commissioner of Higher Education, Board of Regents of Higher Education

(vacancy)

Colorado

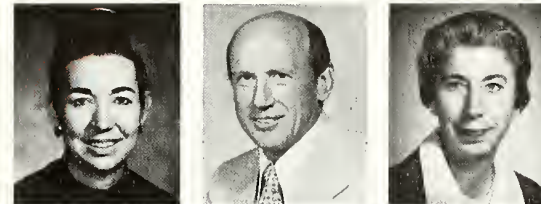


Commissioner Joanne E. Arnold, Boulder
Associate Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Colorado, Boulder

Commissioner Philip Burgess, Denver
Executive Director, Western Governors' Policy Office

Commissioner Kathleen M. Farley, Pueblo
Staff Assistant to U.S. Representative Ray Kogovsek

Idaho



Commissioner Beverly B. Bistline, Pocatello
Attorney

Commissioner Richard D. Gibb, Moscow
President, University of Idaho

Commissioner Martha D. Jones, Boise
Physician

Nevada



Commissioner Don W. Driggs, Reno
Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Nevada, Reno

Commissioner Patricia A. Geuder, Henderson
Associate Professor of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Commissioner John M. Vergiels, Las Vegas
State Assemblyman

New Mexico



Commissioner William E. Davis, Albuquerque
President, University of New Mexico

Commissioner Lenton Malry, Albuquerque
Director of Cross-Cultural Programs, Albuquerque Schools

Commissioner Alfonso E. Ortiz, Las Vegas
Assistant Professor of Education, New Mexico Highlands University

Utah



Commissioner Terrel H. Bell, Salt Lake City
Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah State Board of Regents

Commission Chairman-Elect Donald B. Holbrook, Salt Lake City
Attorney

Commissioner Karl G. Swan, Tooele
State Senator

Wyoming



Commissioner Francis A. Barrett, Cheyenne
Physician

Commissioner Edward H. Jennings, Laramie
President, University of Wyoming

Commissioner William G. Rector, Cheyenne
State Senator

Oregon

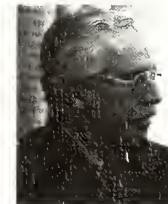


Commissioner Keith Burns, Portland
Attorney

Commissioner Roy E. Lieuallen, Eugene
Chancellor, Oregon State System of Higher Education

Commissioner Georgia A. Gratke, Roseburg

Washington



Commissioner Phyllis Erickson, Parkland
State Representative

Commissioner Glenn Terrell, Pullman
President, Washington State University

Commissioner Frederick P. Thieme, Seattle
Affiliate Curator, Burke Museum, University of Washington



Phillip Sirotkin, Boulder, Colorado
Executive Director, WICHE

Richard W. Jonsen
Deputy Director, WICHE

Selected WICHE Publications*

Higher Education Planning

High School Graduates: Projections for the Fifty States, No. 2A59, \$4.00
Projections of High School Graduates in the West, No. 2A53, \$3.00
Inventory of Doctoral Programs in the Western United States: June 1979, No. 2A54, \$2.50
A State Higher Education Agency View of Planning and Review of Graduate Education, by Patrick Callan, No. 2A56, no charge

Health and Human Services

The Quality of Mental Health Care . . ., No. 3B13, no charge (program brochure)
Criminal Justice Education in the West: An Agenda for the Eighties, No. 3D24, \$2.00
The Rocky Mountain Mental Health Conference on Minority Groups, \$2.50
Communicating Nursing Research, Vol. 12: Credibility in Nursing Science, No. 2C115, \$10.00
Final Report. Analysis and Planning for Improved Distribution of Nursing Personnel and Services, No. 2C114, \$2.00
Vision Manpower in the Western United States, No. 2A55, \$2.25

Student Exchange

Your State Can Help You Obtain Professional Education, No. 2A52, no charge (information brochure)
The WICHE Student Exchange Program, Academic Year 1979-80, No. 2A63, no charge
Accept a Challenge in Mineral Engineering, No. 2A50, no charge (information brochure)
Community College Student Exchange Program, 1978-79 and 1979-80, No. 2A41, no charge (information brochure)

Minorities

Representation of Minorities in Higher Education in the West, No. 2A57, \$3.00

Intern Program

Turn Your Knowledge into Experience through WICHE's Intern Program, no charge (information brochure)

Periodicals

WICHE Reports (quarterly)
WICHE Annual Report (annual)
Graduate Education Project Bulletin (bimonthly)

*A complete list of publications is available by contacting the Publications Office at WICHE.

Summary of WICHE Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Cash Balance (July 1, 1978) \$ 323,669

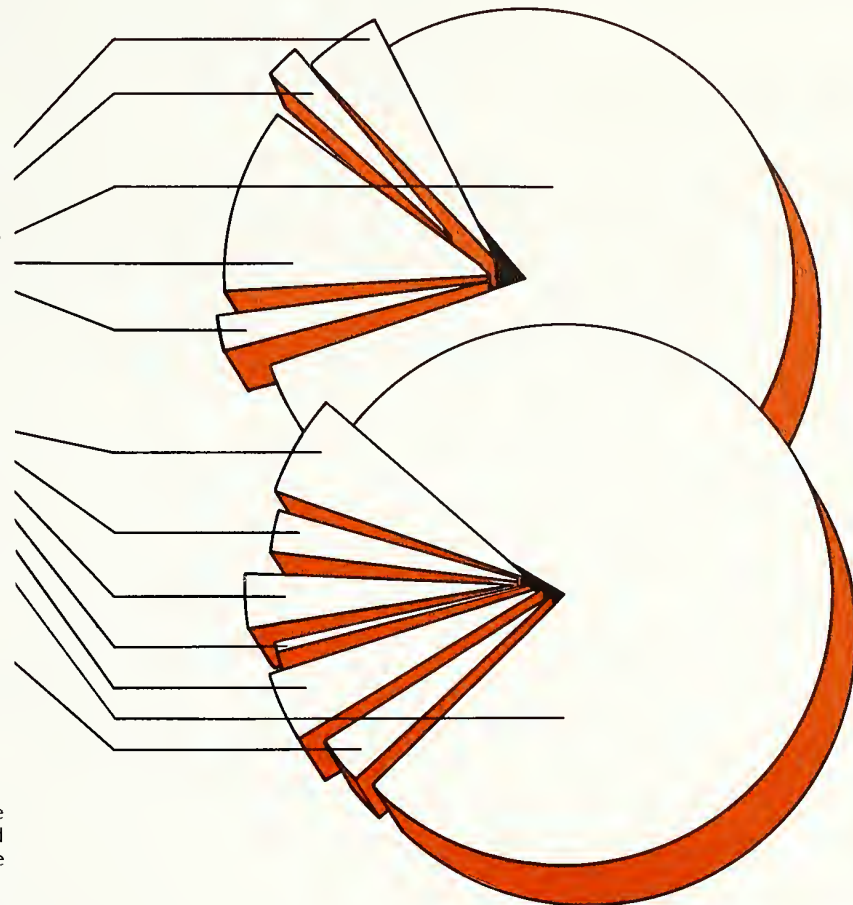
INCOME (FY ended June 30, 1979)

Appropriations from States	\$ 518,000
State Mental Health Contributions	\$ 135,375
Student Exchange Program	
Support Fees from States	\$ 9,049,238
Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,245,429
Fees, Interest, and Other Income	\$ 216,142
Total Income	\$11,164,184

DISBURSEMENTS¹

Administration and Basic Operations ²	\$ 592,878
Nursing Program	\$ 246,834
Intern Program	\$ 330,931
Minority Education Program	\$ 7,119
Mental Health and Human Services Program	\$ 436,293
Student Exchange Support Payments to Schools	\$ 9,049,377
Student Exchange Program Management, Regional Optometric Education Project, and Graduate Education Project	\$ 323,646
Total Disbursements	\$10,987,028

Cash Balance (June 30, 1979)³ \$ 500,825



1. Only direct cost expenditures are shown for program funds. Indirect costs are charged to programs in the internal accounting records, but they are not included in program expenditures on this statement because they are reflected in the WICHE administrative and basic operation expenditures.
2. Includes the expenses (net of payment received from NCHEMS for services provided under contract) of the Executive Director's Office, the Deputy Director's Office, Communications Office, WICHE publications and printing, Business Office, Affirmative Action Office, Personnel Office, Library Services, and meetings of the Commission.
3. This balance represents advance payments on grants, a contingency balance, and an accrued vacation benefit reserve.



WICHE, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, is a nonprofit regional organization. It helps the thirteen member states cooperatively provide high-quality, cost-effective programs to meet the education and manpower needs of the West. Member states are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.